

# Navy takes part in cleaning up with ‘Get The Drift and Bag It’



Bill Roome photo

**Nancy Hoffman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Kelly Dunbar, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs; and Jay Aston, Sierra Club, remove nearly 200 pounds of fishing line and rope from Kahuku Beach.**

**Bill Roome**  
*Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs*

Sailors, family members and Department of Defense civilians recently joined other concerned citizens in removing debris from Oahu’s beaches as part of the 14th annual Get the Drift and Bag It, a volunteer program designed to remove trash from Hawaii’s beaches and shorelines.

The Navy’s Ohana removed unsightly debris from Sand Island, Blaisdell Park, Iroquois Point, White Plains Beach, the Pearl Harbor bike path and Kahuku Beach

located directly behind the James Campbell Wildlife Refuge on Sept. 15.

“The Navy should give themselves a pat on the back,” said Chris Woolaway, representing the University of Hawaii’s Sea Grant Program. “As usual, I received numerous calls from the Navy wishing to participate in this annual cleanup event. Unfortunately, many of the Sailors were unable to make it at the last moment because of the terrible tragedy in New York and in Washington, D.C. However, the Sailors and family members who were able to make it did an outstanding job. They all had positive attitudes and worked very hard.”

## Sailors to benefit from BAH changes

By CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Sailors with family members will benefit from changes made to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) policy that protects service members’ benefits when executing certain no-cost moves within the continental United States (CONUS) and unaccompanied moves overseas.

The changes are designed to correct inequities in entitlement rules involving adjacent housing areas with different BAH rates for all service members and to provide greater flexibility in housing options for unaccompanied members moving overseas.

Under previous legislation, only Sailors without family members were able to keep the BAH rate at the previous duty station when executing a no-cost or close-proximity permanent duty station (PDS) move within CONUS.

The Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) added the same provision for Sailors with dependents. For example, a Sailor currently residing in Arlington, Texas, a suburb located between Dallas and Fort Worth, is assigned to a duty station in Dallas, Texas, but will be re-assigned to Fort Worth under no cost permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

The Sailor, whether with or without dependents, continues to draw BAH at the higher Dallas rate, rather than the lower Fort Worth rate if the Sailor does not execute a move under the new orders. This change allows Sailors to maintain financial stability when executing just a change of PDS, rather than a change in residence.

Additionally, the FY01 NDAA created a new option for Sailors with family members residing separately because of PCS orders overseas. For example, a Sailor who is living in Oceanside, Calif., near Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, and is assigned to a ship homeported in San Diego, receives BAH at the San Diego rate based on current PDS.

When the Sailor elects an unaccompanied or dependent-restricted PCS move to Japan, the Sailor now has the option of leaving family members in Oceanside, while continuing to draw BAH at the higher San Diego rate.

For additional information, go to <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/>, select “Messages,” then “NAVADMINs” and “NAVADMIN 230/01.”

## Chiefs’ ball



JOC Gerard Sekerak photo

**New chief YNC (AW) Stephanie Rivera receives her “Chief’s Creed” plaque from ENCM(SW) Robert J. Scheeler Jr., Naval Station Pearl Harbor Command Master Chief, Sept. 21 at the NAVSTA/NAVREG Khaki Ball at The Banyans. In addition to Rivera, 25 other new chiefs received commemorative plaques and command coins at the celebratory annual ball. Rivera also had the honor of reading her winning essay “Why I want to be a Chief” at the event.**

## Vance relieves Irgens as Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Support Command



PH3 Tracy Hinoite photo

**Cmdr. Kurt Irgens relinquished command of Naval Submarine Support Command at a change of command ceremony held Sept. 18 at Pearl Harbor.**

**JO2 Cori Rhea**  
*COMSUBPAC Public Affairs*

Cmdr. Brian T. Vance relieved Cmdr. Kurt Irgens as Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC), Sept. 18

at Pearl Harbor.

Capt. Robert Brandhuber, Chief of Staff Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke at the ceremony. He began with a moment of silence.

“Before we get to the traditional matter at hand, I’d like to ask you to please join me in a moment of silent reflection and prayer for those who have lost their loved ones by the cowardly acts last week,” said Brandhuber, referring to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11. After the silence, the ceremony commenced.

“Today we witness the very proper and traditional transfer of command from Kurt Irgens to Brian Vance and we recognize NSSC’s significant accomplishments under Kurt’s superb leadership,” Brandhuber continued.

“Cmdr. Irgens established Naval Submarine Support Command in less than three months, from inception to completion. Under his leadership NSSC evolved into a centralized shore command providing operational support for three submarine squadrons and 19 submarines homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii,” said Brandhuber.

Upon arriving at the cleanup sites, the volunteers broke into groups with several people picking up and bagging trash while others documented the types of trash removed from the beaches and shorelines. According to Woolaway, documenting the types of trash removed from Hawaii’s beaches and shorelines is important because the information will be used to educate the public about marine debris hazards. “Annually, thousands of seals, sea turtles, whales and birds die from entanglement in fishing lines, strapping bands, six-pack holders and other plastic debris,” explained Woolaway.

She added that plastics are often mistaken for food by marine animals who may suffer internal injury, intestinal blockage and starvation after ingesting plastic materials.” Sea grant scientists estimate that debris ingestion, entanglement or both, affect 43 percent of all marine mammal species throughout the world.

Although the amount and types of debris removed during the cleanup have not yet been tallied, most of the Navy participants agreed that cigarette butts were the most numerous single items collected. Not far behind were cups, a variety of plastic items, cans, straws, paper products, fishing lines, utensils and of course, the ubiquitous fast food containers.

“My daughter Kimberly joined me in retrieving trash from Sand Island. We picked up lots of cigarette butts, picnic materials, such as paper plates and plastic grocery bags. However, what impressed me about this get together was the diverse group of people that participated. It seemed that people from all walks of life decided to give a few hours of their time to clean up Hawaii,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Tim O’Neal, Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1.

Petty Officer Jerry Hukill from Makalapa Comsec Support and four of his Sailor buddies joined students from Leeward Community College and others in sprucing up the Pearl Harbor bike path.

Hukill and his group found automobile tires and batteries, abandoned bicycles, cloths, glass and lots of bottles. In less than four hours, the group filled roughly 450 bags of trash that weighed about 2,900 pounds. “Unfortunately, there is a lot more trash along the bike path,” exclaimed Hukill.

Meanwhile, along Kahuku Beach, Navy DOD civilians, representatives from the Sierra Club, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and students were busy picking up and documenting rubbish that included paper products, such as plates and cups, cans and lots of fishing line and rope. In fact, at one point, Mrs. Kelly Dunbar, Kaho’olawe Public Affairs Officer, needed three others to assist her in lifting, dragging and pushing about 200 pounds of fishing line and rope to a central location where the materials were trucked off. “There was quite a lot of fishing line out here today. Most of it was tangled in the rocks so you had to be patient in separating the line and rope from the jagged rocks,” explained Dunbar.

Dunbar added that according to sea grant scientists, as lost or discarded fishing gear travels through the oceans, it leaves behind abraded coral and damaged wildlife habitats.

Last year’s clean-up effort in Hawaii involved 2,340 volunteers who collected nearly 34,000 pounds of debris. Woolaway does not have the final count of the number of individuals who participated in this year’s cleanup, but she feels the numbers may be down because of the tragedy in New York and in Washington, D. C. “The numbers may be down, but those who showed did a terrific job. They came to work and that they did. I would like to thank all the volunteers for giving unselfishly of their time to keep Hawaii a special and clean place.”

The University of Hawaii’s Sea Grant and the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management program coordinate the Get the Drift and Bag It program.

## Department of Defense authorizes ‘stop-loss’; Navy holds on to 10,500 Sailors in ‘critical specialties’

By the U.S. Department of Defense

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has delegated his “stop-loss” authority to the heads of the military departments.

The stop-loss program allows the services to retain individuals on active duty beyond their date of separation. Those affected by the order generally cannot retire or leave the service as long as reserves are called to active duty or until relieved by the President, whichever is earlier.

Stop-loss was last used during Operation Allied Force over Kosovo. In 1990, then President George Bush delegated stop-loss authority to the Secretary of Defense during Operation Desert Shield. That delegation remains valid today.

The services are adopting various forms of stop-loss. They generally will target the program at servicemem-

bers with critical military occupations.

The Air Force has already applied stop-loss to all active, Guard and reserve forces, stopping all separations and retirements for at least 30 days.

This will not apply to those with an approved separation on or before Oct. 1, 2001. The Air Force will continue to review and revise the policy as circumstances dictate.

The Army has no immediate plans to implement stop-loss, while the Navy plans a limited stop-loss affecting approximately 10,500 people in 11 critical specialties. The Marine Corps expects to complete its stop-loss plan later this week.

Most involuntary discharges would not be affected by stop-loss, nor will stop-loss change any policies or regulations currently in effect that might lead to an administrative discharge.